

TOWN OF TIVERTON RHODE ISLAND

*HARBOR COMMISSION
343 HIGHLAND ROAD
TIVERTON RHODE ISLAND 02878*

*John McEwing, Chairman
David Stewart, Vice-Chairman
Harris Gruber, Secretary
Bob Dixon
Roger Winiarski
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Dave Vannier, Harbormaster (ex-officio)*

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 4, 2010 (SPECIAL MEETING)

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman John McEwing.

Members present: John McEwing, David Stewart, Harris Gruber, Bob Dixon, Roger Winiarski, Bruce Cox. Harbormaster Dave Vannier was present. Also present were nine residents of the Nannaquaket Pond area, from the eastern shore of the Pond, most of whom had attended our March 1st meeting. Also present was Jim Duckett, also a resident of the eastern shore of the Pond, who is one of the principals in the proposed oyster aquaculture facility being proposed at this time in Nannaquaket Pond.

Minutes of the February 1, 2010 Meeting were presented and approved as written.

Item #2 – Oyster Farming in Nannaquaket Pond. (Continuation of discussion from April 1 Meeting, Item #2). One of the partners in the proposed operation, Jim Duckett, was present. He has been a resident in the area for 45 years. He or his family own eight of the fifteen properties closest to the proposed site..

The first part of the discussion was regarding the site presentation, the drawing of which specified GPS coordinates out in the Pond, but the drawings superimposed on a

chart copy depicted the location to be within the cove between Delano Island and the mainland. The residents objected to the location within the cove as depriving them of access for usual summer use, as well as the matter of two moorings that were located within the cove. Questions were then asked about actually situating the activity out in the Pond, at its south end, in shallow water, so as to minimize interference with the residents' usual summer boating and swimming activities. The Commission also asked about the riparian rights of the other seven home owners adjacent to the affected area. Mr. Duckett was asked to identify his partner, who is Peter Sebring, who is not a resident of Tiverton. Questions were asked by the members about whether the water quality, though DEM level 1, was still suitable, given the proximity of residences with septic systems to the Pond, especially in summer. It was determined that there was a suitable area, with MLW depths of 2', in the southern portion of the Pond.

Questions were asked about access to the site. Mr. Duckett said that the site would be serviced by one or two people from a 20' outboard skiff, turning the bags of seedlings weekly, or as required (perhaps less frequently), to prevent formation of algae on the seedlings. Roger Winiarski pointed out that, at some time in the past, the DEM had considered closing Nannaquaket Pond to fishing in summer, due to excessive septic system leaching. However, this situation does not appear to exist at the present time. Resident Karen Durfee remarked that swimming had always been an allowed activity.

More accurate measurements were requested from Mr. Duckett, particularly those from shore to shore and proposed distances offshore from the adjacent shores. Full scale drawings of the proposal were requested, with accurate GPS coordinates. A question about buoys marking the lines of bags was asked. Mr. Duckett thought twelve, but wasn't sure. A diagram of such buoys was also requested.

Numerous questions were asked of Mr. Duckett about his contacts with residents of the Pond shoreline regarding his project. In particular, the members were concerned that all riparian rights owners be informed regarding the project before it became a reality without their knowing about it.

It was moved and seconded that the proposal be rejected, without prejudice, pending more detailed information and specifications, and that such a re-submittal would be welcomed for further review. Approved unanimously.

Item #1 – Theroux Seawall Overhaul – (see March 1 Minutes). Approved unanimously.

Item # 3 – Harbor Management Plan Updating. Three Monday evening Workshops are scheduled for completing the CRMC-recommendation of the “front portion” of the HMP; meetings scheduled for March 15, March 22 and March 29. Upon completion of this portion, the section on “regulations” will be addressed. (See Item 3 of 3/1 Minutes).

Mooring Inspections. (See Item #4, 3/1 Minutes.) It was further suggested that “winter sticks” be removed by May 1 each year and that this should be included in the updated Regulations. Discussion was also had about requiring an inspection every two years, to be performed by a “certified” diver/inspector, and to include this requirement in the regulations for mooring permit renewal approval, as well as a requirement for “mooring sticks” connected to each chain, so as to be able to more easily locate actual moorings to facilitate allocation and re-allocation of space, in case someone gives up their mooring. For simplicity, it was suggested that the dates for requiring “mooring sticks” conform to the CRMC dates for “pulley line” winter removal. The mooring sticks would be , to bear the name of the mooring owner or vendor, and other pertinent information. The Harbormaster will inform the mooring owners as to the exact requirements, as soon as implemented.

It was also discussed that some mooring owners prefer to actually drop the chain to the bottom during the off-season, as the chain is much better preserved by lying in the mud for extended periods of non-use, thereby significantly extending the useful life of the chain.

Harbormaster Job Description. It was moved and approved unanimously that the “Harbormaster Job Description” be inserted in the Harbor Management Plan revision now underway.9Item #8, 3/1 Minutes.)

Weaver's Cove/Hess LNG Proposal. Bruce Cox attended the recent Bristol Town Council meeting where a presentation was made by Weaver's Cove/Hess representatives. House was packed; 40-50 people (including Harris Gruber) waited outside, temperature about freezing, ultimately turned away. Many questions about the efficacy of a 4.3 mile pipeline, to be placed into a 12' deep trench to be dug in the bottom of Mount Hope Bay. This proposal was presented in BAY magazine in March; no technical information was provided. There are many environmental considerations; a “tunnel” of this nature has never been done. One metallurgical consideration is that a “chilled” pipe becomes brittle. It would entail a pipe within a

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pipe, both stainless steel. ? Freon gas would be used in making the installation. ?

The proposed location of the Mount Hope Bay “tanker docking facility”, which would be at one end of the pipeline, would be north of the RI/MA state line and north of Spar Island. This is very close to a heavy concentration of Tiverton homes.

According to Bob Dixon, six LPG ships a year arrive in Providence, all at night. The USCG cannot successfully supervise LNG ship traffic at night in constricted waters. Weaver's Cove/Hess proposes frequent unannounced arrivals of LNG-carrying supertankers, perhaps 70 per year. He also said that there are already several LNG pipelines into New England. He recently attended a ?USCG/FERC/DOT? Meeting on the matter in Washington DC..

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to invite Weaver's Cove/Hess to make a presentation to Tiverton residents, at a suitable venue to allow maximum attendance. Bruce Cox will prepare the letter.

Harbor Commission Annual Election of Officers. Harris Gruber nominated Bruce Cox for Chairman, who then declined. David Stewart nominated John McEwing for re-election. The nomination was seconded and approved unanimously. David Stewart and Harris Gruber were nominated to again serve as Vice-Chairman and Secretary, respectively. These nominations were seconded and approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted – Harris Gruber, Secretary